

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18 and 19 as follows:

1. (Previously presented) A trailer hitch assembly comprising: a trailer tongue, a hitch catch, said hitch catch releasably connected to said trailer tongue, said hitch catch for coupling to a towing vehicle, a tongue lock, said tongue lock for insertion into said trailer tongue when said hitch catch is removed from said trailer tongue, said tongue lock comprising a pair of retractable arms.
- 2.-3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously presented) The trailer hitch assembly of claim 1 wherein said tongue lock is key operated.
5. (Previously presented) The trailer hitch assembly of claim 1 further comprising a pin, said pin for connecting said hitch catch to said trailer tongue.
6. (Currently Amended) A trailer hitch assembly for coupling with a trailer hitch on a towing vehicle comprising: a tubular trailer tongue, a hitch catch, said hitch catch comprising a tubular body sized to slide within said trailer tongue, and a ball catch, said ball catch attached to said tubular body, a tongue lock, said tongue lock for insertion into said

trailer tongue when said hitch catch is removed therefrom, said tongue lock comprising a first and a second retractable arm.

7.-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The trailer hitch assembly of claim 6 wherein said trailer tongue defines an arm opening, said arm opening for receiving one of said retractable ~~arm~~ arms.

10. (Currently Amended) The trailer hitch assembly of claim 6 wherein said tongue lock comprises a ~~second retractable arm~~ rotatable lock.

11. (Currently Amended) The trailer hitch assembly of ~~claim 10~~ claim 6 wherein said trailer tongue defines a pair of arm openings, said first and said second retractable arms for positioning in said pair of arm openings.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of coupling a trailer with a trailer tongue to a towing vehicle having an attached hitch comprising the steps of:

- a) modifying the trailer tongue to receive a hitch catch therein;
- b) placing a hitch catch within the trailer tongue;
- c) coupling the hitch catch ~~to a~~ to the towing vehicle;
- d) removing the hitch catch from the trailer ~~tongue,~~ and thereafter tongue;

- e) obstructing the trailer tongue with a tongue ~~lock.~~ lock having a pair of retractable arms; and
- f) extending the pair of retractable arms from the tongue lock to secure the tongue lock within the trailer tongue.

13.-15 (Canceled)

- 16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 ~~further comprises the step of wherein~~ removing the hitch catch from the trailer tongue comprises the step of ~~++and++~~ inserting a rotatable tongue lock therein.
- 17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 further ~~comprises comprising~~ the step of locking the trailer tongue by ~~extending a~~ extending the pair of retractable arms from the tongue lock through arm openings in the trailer tongue.
- 18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein obstructing the trailer tongue comprises the step of inserting a tongue lock having a ~~retractable arm~~ key operated retractable arms.
- 19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18 further comprises the step of rotating the tongue lock with a key to extend the retractable ~~arm~~ arms.